THE BUDGET (GOA), 2005-06

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Goa for the year 2005-06.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GOA), 2004-05

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2004-05 for the State of Goa.

THE BUDGET (BIHAR), 2005-06

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated recepits and expenditure of the State of Bihar for the year 2005-06.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (BIHAR), 2004-05

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2004-05 for the State of Bihar.

GOVERNMENT BILL...Contd.

The Parel Investment Sand Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking over of Management) Repeal Bill, 2004.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, I beg to move:

> That the Bill to repeal the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1979, be taken into consideration.

Sir, I have the honour to present for your consideration the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Repeal Bill, 2004.

With your leave, Mr. Deputy Chairman, might I seek your indulgence to explain the background to this Bill? M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, a Government of India Undertaking was formed after merging four companies at different points in time, namely, ESSO, Lube India Undertakings, Caltex and Kosangas Company. HPCL has an all-India presence in the LPG business.

Two companies, namely, M/s Parel Investments and Trading Company Limited (PITCL) (formerly known as Parel Investments and M/s Trading Private Limited) and Domestic Gas Private Limited (DGPL) were concessionaires of Caltex, appointed as distributors for the sale of Caltex's packed LPG for southern and eastern India. The Government of India took over the management of PITCL and DGPL, and, pending acquisition of their LPG business, HPCL were appointed as custodian through the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1979.

Sir, the Goculdas Group of Companies, the common promoter of these two companies, filed writ petitions in the Delhi High Court in 1979 in respect of these companies. The Court granted interim relief to the petitioners and ordered that the non-LPG business of these companies shall not be taken over by the Government/HPCL. Shri R.M. Goculdas, the authorized representative of the Goculdas Group of Companies, offered an out-of-court settlement to the Government in 1985. It was felt that a negotiated out-of-court settlement, would end long drawn out litigation. Pending finalization of the settlement, the writ petitions were disposed of by the Delhi High Court in December, 1996 with liberty to the parties to apply for their revival, if need be. However, the settlement could not be finalized.

In February, 2000, Shri Ashok Chandra, former Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, was appointed to hear all the interested parties and give his recommendations.

On the basis of these recommendations, an out-of-court compromise settlement was negotiated between the Goculdas Group of Companies, HPCL and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It envisaged taking over the LPG business of PITCL and DGPL only at a nominal amout of Rs. 10,000/-, handing back the management relating to non-LPG business of the Goculdas Group of Companies, and not raising any dispute in future

with regard to taking over the management/assets and liabilities of their LPG business.

The title of the LPG business of the two companies was required to be vested in HPCL in order to regularize HPCL's investments in modernizing and expanding their LPG business. The acquisition of their LPG business would enable HPCL to maintain the bottling, transporting, marketing and distribution of LPG.

In accordance with the decision, the conveyancing of LPG business and related assets of PITCL and DGPL in favour of the Government of India/HPCL has since been effected through deeds of assignment on 2.4.2004.

Under the deeds of assignment, all the assets relating to LPG business, namely, lease holds, land building, gas cylinders, bottling and filling facilities, tank lorries, LPG stock, bank balances, books of accounts, registers have been acquired and transferred, subsequent to management take over in 1979. In addition, only liabilities arising out of deposits collected from customers for LPG cylinders, gratuity to employees, current liabilities relating to sundry creditors and wages of employees have been assumed by the Government/HPCL. The remaining liabilities continue to be with the respective companies.

The Act of 1979 had displaced the Board of Directors of the two companies and had empowered HPCL to perform all functions of the Board of Directors. Under the deeds, the management of the said two companies, shall be relinquished in favour of the respective two companies, except in relation to the LPG related business which has been acquired.

An amount of Rs. 10,000/- has been paid for the assignment of the LPG business to each of the said two companies.

Under the deeds, the officers and workers employed in the LPG business of PITCL and DGPL shall be absorbed on the rolls of HPCL.

Their employment shall continue on the same terms and conditions as were applicable prior to the acquisition and until revised by HPCL.

As the process of conveyancing is completed, it is now proposed to repeal the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1979. The present Bill aims at this.

I, therefore, commend the Bill to this august House.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

That the Bill to repeal the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1979, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment to Clause 1.

CLAUSE-1

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR; Sir, I beg to move:

2. That at page 2, line 33 *for* the figure "2004" the figure "2005" be *substituted.*

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment to the Enacting Formula.

ENACTING FORMULA

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I beg to move:

That at page 2, line 31, *for* the word "Fifty-fifth" the word "Fifty-sixth" be *substituted.*

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I move:

That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी (पश्चिम बंगाल): सर, अभी रेल बिल पास हो गया, परेल निरसन बिल पास हो गया, लेकिन रेलवे केटरिंग तो बंद नहीं हुई है। हम खाना तो खाएंगे? आधा घंटे के लिए हाउस adjourn कर दें।

श्री उपसभापति: अभी Labour Minister का स्टेटमेंट है।

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: हमें थोड़ा सा खाना तो खा लेने दीजिए। आधा घंटे के लिए adjourn कर दीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I now adjourn the House till 2.15 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at sixteen minutes past two of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Launching of an unemployment benefit scheme for workers from the new financial year

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): Sir, I am happy to announce to the House that in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government and under the guidance of the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, and the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken a momentous decision to implement a highly labour-friendly Scheme called the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana. This Scheme shall be implemented by the Employees State Insurance Corporation, a statutory organization under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

We often come across situations where industrial units and other establishments are closed down for a variety of reasons, beyond the control of the workers. During such periods of unemployment, and till they are able to find alternative employment, the economic and social condition of